

Message Text

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13

ORIGIN ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DLOS-07 COA-02 EB-11 L-03 CIAE-00

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R 102321Z MAY 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY QUITO

INFO AMCONSUL GUAYAQUIL

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 097849

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: EFIS, PBOR, PFOR,EC

SUBJ: GOE FISHERIES REGULATIONS

REF: A. STATE 91686 B. QUITO 3022

1. AMBASSADOR QUEVEDO CALLED ON EP COUNTRY DIRECTOR MAY 10 TO PROVIDE RESPONSE TO LATTER'S EXPRESSION OF CONCERN RE PROPOSED NEW GOE FISHING REGULATION (REF A). QUEVEDO SAID HE HAD BEEN INFORMED THAT GOE DID HAVE UNDER STUDY DRAFT REGULATIONS WHICH WOULD PLACE LIMITS ON ACTIVITIES OF FOREIGN FLAG FISHING VESSELS IN ACCORDANCE WITH GOE POLICY OF DEVELOPING AND PROTECTING NATIONAL FISHING INDUSTRY AS WELL AS CONSERVING FISHERIES RESOURCES. PROHIBITION ON FOREIGN FLAG VESSELS OVER ONE THOUSAND GROSS REGISTERED TONS IS PART OF MEASURE UNDER CONSIDERATION. HOWEVER, VESSELS OPERATING IN ASSOCIATION ECUADOREAN FISHING COMPANIES OR AS PART OF JOINT VENTURES WOULD NOT BE AFFECTED, AND FORMATION OF SUCH ENTERPRISES WOULD CONSTITUTE POSITIVE STEP IN RELATIONS BETWEEN TWO COUNTRIES.

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2. COUNTRY DIRECTOR SAID WE CONSIDER TIMING OF PROPOSED

REGULATIONS UNFORTUNATE FROM TWO DISTINCT STANDPOINTS.

A. WOULD MAKE IT MORE DIFFICULT CONVINCE U.S. INDUSTRY THAT ATMOSPHERE IS FAVORABLE FOR UNDERTAKING INDUSTRY-TO-INDUSTRY DISCUSSIONS ON AN ASSOCIATION AGREEMENT. OUR INDUSTRY WILL PROBABLY INTERPRET ISSUANCE OF REGULATIONS

AS EVIDENCE THAT ATMOSPHERE NOT FAVORABLE AND MAY EVEN CONSIDER IT AS PRESSURE TACTIC DESIGNED FORCE INDUSTRY INTO ASSOCIATION AGREEMENT.

B. PROXIMITY OF CARACAS LOS CONFERENCE ALSO MAKES TIMING BAD. WE BELIEVE IT WOULD BE IN OUR MUTUAL INTEREST IF SUBSTANTIAL AGREEMENT COULD BE REACHED AT CARACAS ON WIDELY SUPPORTED RULES FOR USE OF OCEAN AND ITS RESOURCES, INCLUDING RULES FOR CONSERVATION AND UTILIZATION OF MIGRATORY SPECIES. WE WOULD HOPE IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE FOLLOWING CARACAS CONFERENCE TO BEGIN APPLICATION ON PROVISIONAL BASIS OF AGREEMENT WHICH ACHIEVED. IT IS OUR VIEW THAT ACHIEVING AGREEMENT ON WIDE VARIETY OF ISSUES--INCLUDING RESOLUTION OF OUR DIFFERENCES ON MIGRATORY SPECIES--AND IMPLEMENTING IT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE WILL BE EASIER IF PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES AVOID UNNECESSARILY LIMITING THEIR NEGOTIATING FLEXIBILITY IN ADVANCE. CONSIDERABLE GIVE AND TAKE WILL BE NEEDED ON ALL SIDES FOR CONFERENCE TO SUCCEED.

FOR THESE REASONS, WE HOPE GOE WILL CAREFULLY CONSIDER DESIRABILITY ISSUING PROPOSED REGULATIONS AT THIS TIME.

3. IN RESPONSE POINT A, AMBASSADOR QUEVEDO SAID HE UNDERSTOOD OUR CONCERN BUT THAT WE COULD ASSURE INDUSTRY THAT GOE SINCERELY INTERESTED IN INDUSTRY-TO-INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION AGREEMENT AND THAT, ALTHOUGH REGULATIONS MIGHT TEND FOSTER SUCH AGREEMENT, THEY WERE NOT INTENDED AS PRESSURE TACTIC. GOE STILL NEEDED ASSURANCES THAT U.S. INDUSTRY UNDERSTOOD ANY ASSOCIATION AGREEMENT WOULD BE FULLY SUBJECT TO ECUADOREAN LAW (REF A); ONCE THAT TAKEN CARE OF, HOWEVER, GOE WOULD BE PREPARED SEE TALKS MOVE FORWARD PROMPTLY.

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4. WITH REFERENCE POINT B, QUEVEDO SAID GOE SAW PROPOSED REGULATION AS NECESSARY COMPONENT ITS NATIONAL FISHERIES POLICY AND THAT HE DID NOT BELIEVE IT WOULD HAMPER GOE'S FLEXIBILITY WITH RESPECT CARACAS CONFERENCE.

5. QUEVEDO DID NOT REACT TO REPEATED SUGGESTIONS THAT GOE CAREFULLY CONSIDER TIMING OF ISSUANCE OF REGULATIONS AND GAVE IMPRESSION THAT GOE'S MIND MADE UP. RUSH

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